

Message Text

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72

ACTION AID-20

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E O 11652: NA

SUBJ: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: RELIEF CAMPS AND AT-RISK POP-
ULATIONS

REF: STATE 139808

1. WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF SYSTEMATIC RE-
PORTING ON REFUGEES AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS, MOST OF THE IN-
FORMATION REQUESTED REFTTEL REMAINS UNAVAILABLE. NEITHER
GOC NIR DONORS CAN PROVIDE MORE THAN SKETCHY INFORMATION AS
REQUESTED BY AID/W. PROBLEM IS RENDERED MORE DIFFICULT HERE
BY GOC'S SENSITIVITY TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES MAKING DIRECT
CONTACT WITH PREFECTURAL AND RURAL OFFICIALS EITHER TO ASSEMBLE
INFORMATION OR TO PROPOSE ASSISTANCE. LARGE AREAS OF COUNTRY
ARE ALMOST INACCESSIBLE DUE TO BANDITS, OUTLAWS OR REBELS,
AND GOC TO UNDERSTANDABLY SENSITIVE ABOUT OUTSIDERS MAKING CONTACT
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WITH RURAL POPULATIONS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH SOME-

WHAT RANDOM AND INCOMPLETE, MAY BE OF USE:

2A. FIRST YEAR OF DROUGHT, 1972, FOUND AFFECTED POPULATIONS WITH RESERVES OF FOOD, SUPPLIES AND OTHER FORMS OF WEALTH INCLUDING WOMEN'S JEWELRY. WHEN HARVEST FAILED AGAIN IN 1973 MOST OF THESE RESERVES WERE CONSUMED SO THAT THIS YEAR THERE IS GENERALIZED DEPRIVATION ACROSS THE ENTIRE SAHEL. CDC RESEARCHER FOUND WIDE-SPREAD UNDER-NOURISHMENT AND MALNUTRITION. POPULATION AFFECTED BY DROUGHT IS PROBABLY AROUND ONE MILLION.

B. CAMPS EXIST AT NOKOU, ZIGUEY AND MAO IN KANEM, AT MASSAKORY IN CHARI-BAGUIRMI AND AT MONGO IN GUERA, BUT THESE DO NOT RESEMBLE CAMPS AS DESCRIBED IN NIGER AND MALI. THERE ARE PROBABLY 4,000 PEOPLE WHO COULD BE SAID TO BE LIVING IN CAMPS AND PERHAPS TWO-THIRDS OF THESE ARE CHILDREN UNDER FIVE.

C. CAMPS NUMBER FROM TEN TO SEVENTY RED CROSS TENTS AND, EXCEPT AT MONGO, SEVERAL HUNDRED HUTS MADE OF STRAW MATS. CHADIAN RED CROSS OR CATHOLIC OR PROTESTANT FIELD KITCHENS TO SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS, EACH USUALLY HAS A MORNING SOUP AND AN EVENING SOUP MADE OF ONE OR ANOTHER OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING: POWDERED MILK, CSM, FISH MEAL, VITAMINS, SEMOLINA AND/OR SORGHUM. RED CROSS TENTS ARE SET UP NEAR DISPENSARIES IN KANEM FOR WORSE CASES OF DISEASE OR MALNUTRITION. GOC ALSO DISTRIBUTES DIRECTLY TO CAMP DWELLERS. IN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE RURAL REFUGEES TO RETURN TO FIELDS TO HELP WITH PLANTING MONGO AUTHORITIES GAVE FOOD SUPPLIES TO THOSE WHO COULD CARRY THEM BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES AND THUS SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING MONGO CAMP POPULATION SUBSTANTIALLY.

D. EXCEPT FOR ABOVE NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON RATIONS. CAMP DWELLERS HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO ANY SPECIFIC DISEASES, BUT THERE HAS BEEN HIGHER MORTALITY FROM MEASLES THAN FROM OTHER DISEASES.

E. BULK GRAINS AND MOST POWDERED MILK ARE DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY BY GOC TO AND THROUGH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES DO PARALLEL DISTRIBUTIONS, USUALLY OF ENRICHED FOODS MADE AVAILABLE FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS ABROAD. OCCASIONSLY, BUT ONLY RARELY, GOC MAKES FOODS AND MEDICINES AVAILABLE TO VOLAGS FOR DISTRIBUTION. ALL OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON FOODS ON HAND AND RATES OF CONSUMPTION IN CAMP OR OUT OF CAMPS IN AFFECTED AREAS HAVE LED NOWHERE.

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F. IN-COUNTRY DONOR COORDINATION IS AD HOC AND UNSYSTEMATIC, BUT ALMOST ADEQUATE. MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM IS GOC INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS INFORM ONE DONOR WHAT HAS BEEN ASKED FROM ANOTHER OR WHAT HAS BEEN PROMISED BY OTHERS.

3. LOOK FORWARD TO TIME WHEN BETTER STAFFING AND PERHAPS MORE EFFECTIVE GOC ORGANIZATION WILL ENABLE COMPILATION OF KIND OF INFORMATION NEEDED BY DEPARTMENT.

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